

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention provides a method for detecting RNA polymerase activity in a continuous-read manner. Specifically, the invention provides a method for detecting the *de novo* polymerase activity of the Hepatitis C virus (HCV) polymerase, NS5B, in a continuous-read manner. The invention also provides a method of screening for modulators of RNA polymerase activity. More specifically, the invention provides a method of screening for modulators of HCV NS5B activity.